(घ) और (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता है।

**Working of Employment Assistance Centres**

745. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of Employment Assistance Centres temporarily operated to make arrangements for alternative employment of workers effected by structural changes in economy; and

(b) the action taken by Government on the basis of this review?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government have set up the National Renewal Fund on February 3, 1992 to protect the interests of workers effected by modernisation, technology upgradation and industrial restructuring. The Fund, *inter alia*, provides assistance to cover the costs of retraining and redeployment of effected workers. Initially, five nodal agencies set up Employee Assistance Centres at Bombay, Ahmedabad, Indore, Kanpur and Calcutta on a pilot scale basis for counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to workers. On a review of the scheme of Employee Assistance Centres, set-up on a pilot scale basis, it has now been extended to 49 locations in 16 States through 13 nodal agencies.

**Strike in Singareni Collieries Limited, Andhra Pradesh**

746. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dissention amongst the recognised and non-recognised trade unions regarding agitation and strike in Singareni Collieries Limited, Andhara Pradesh;

(b) what were the demands of the Singareni Colliery workers who went on strike in the month of October, 1995;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to settle their disputes/ demand so that the workers may discipline themselves and devote their energy and time for more production; and

(d) What steps Government have taken/propose to take to avert such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands of striking workers of Singareni Collieries Company Limited are:—

(i) Finalisation of pension scheme.

(ii) Modalities for application of new Dearness Allowance formula.

(iii) Employment of dependants.

(c) and (d) Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry which includes the Labour Unions and management of all coal companies has been holding negotiations to arrive at the National Coal Wage Agreement-V, which covers all the demands of the workers.

**Fires/Explosions in fire works factories**

747. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAOSHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of incidents of fires/explosions in fire works factories have occurred this year in different parts of the country with heavy casualties and exposing improper enforcement of security and safety norms and labour laws;

(b) if so, the number and details of fire accidents in fire works factory during the current year and comparative figures for 1994 and 1993 indicating the number of casualties; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such violation of laws and norms?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c): The information is being collected